



The Lower Fox River Basin and Green Bay

Our Watershed

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE LOWER FOX RIVER BASIN AND GREEN BAY

Welcome to the first issue of Our Watershed, a collaboratively published newsletter that will bring you information on current events and issues on the Fox River Basin and Green Bay's TMDL (read further for TMDL details). Published quarterly, we will cover public meetings and notices, offer tips and suggestions on improving our water quality, discuss water quality issues, and present opportunities that, as a community, we can use to protect our water resources and our water heritage.

Clean Waters for Fishing & Swimming? We can make it happen!

Because several streams and rivers here in the Lower Fox River Basin and Green Bay are impaired due to excessive phosphorus and suspended sediment, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive before it becomes "too" polluted, or impaired. Impairment to a water body can mean increased algae growth, unpleasant odors, beach closings, decreasing fish and wildlife, restrictions on consumption of fish, health warnings, drinking water consumption restrictions, as well as many other degraded health and environmental conditions. A TMDL takes into account water chemistry, biology data, land use considerations, rainfall and other important conditions of the watershed to determine how much phosphorus and sediment can be tolerated by streams and rivers. To learn more about TMDLs, you can visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/FoxRiverTMDL/> and to learn more about sediment and phosphorus please visit <http://www.uwgb.edu/watershed/index.htm>.

The TMDL for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay will also include basin-wide strategies on how we can achieve our water quality goals. Reducing the amount of phosphorus and sediment going into the Fox River will take all of us working together, using cost-effective and creative strategies. We all need to work toward the goal of cleaner water. We can have an impact on water quality, simply by changing the way we use water. For ideas on how you can help, see Page Two of this newsletter!



Water: A Basic Necessity

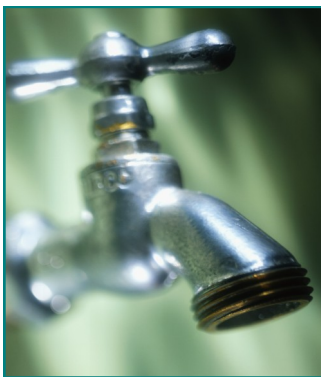
Water is a basic need to life. In the news we hear more and more how important this essential resource is to us. We also hear about regions that do not have the benefit of good, clean water. As today's consumers of water, it is our responsibility to ensure that our children have an abundant supply of pure, healthy water tomorrow. Changing the ways we use and treat water can have significant impact on tomorrow's quality of water.



Partners working together on this TMDL include the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, University of Wisconsin-Extension, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Oneida Nation, among others.



But we need YOU! You and your neighbors are the most important team-members in this TMDL. We can not successfully clean our waters without your help. You can help to improve water quality and make the Lower Fox River watershed a healthier and cleaner watershed simply by reducing the amount of chemicals and toxins you use in and around your home.



- ◆ Use phosphorus-free fertilizer for your lawn and garden.
- ◆ Be careful not to over-use fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, or cleaners.
- ◆ Consider going pesticide and herbicide free. It's healthier for you and nature!
- ◆ Use phosphorus-free laundry soaps and dish detergent.
- ◆ Use non-toxic cleaners such as baking soda, lemon juice, and vinegar.
- ◆ Water your garden and lawn early in the morning or later in the evening. Don't water during the heat of the day.
- ◆ After mowing the grass, leave the grass clippings on the grass. This promotes natural mulching of your lawn.
- ◆ Never dump anything into storm sewers or ditches! It goes directly into our water!

We are tied to the river. Our quality of life, economic vitality, sense of place, community pride and recreational activities are closely connected to the Fox River and Bay of Green Bay. ***We understand the challenges.*** Yet through cooperation, we can all work toward the same goal—a cleaner watershed. ***We can make a difference.*** Numerous examples of small “wins” exist in the basin; local heroes and champions have made progress in improving water quality. ***We'll do it together.***

For more information on water quality:

Contact your county conservation department: <http://www.wlwca.org/Pages/LCDWeb.htm>

Contact a DNR field representative: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cs/ServiceCenter/Locations.htm>

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